

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Document: Trump wants bigger military

BY DAN LAMOTHE

*The Washington Post*

The Trump administration has drafted an executive order stating the president will significantly grow the U.S. military, spending money on everything from additional Special Operations forces to the modernization of the U.S. nuclear arsenal while cutting projects that are not considered the “highest priority operations.”

The three-page document, obtained by *The Washington Post*, calls for new Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to carry out a 30-day “readiness review” that will examine needs for the war against the Islamic State group and “other forms of Islamic terror,” as well as training, maintenance, ammunition and infrastructure. The review, the draft said, also will examine how to carry out operations against unnamed “near-peer competitors,” a group which U.S. officials typically identify as China and Russia.

The draft order also calls for a second, parallel review in which the Pentagon and the Office of Management and Budget combine to craft a “military readiness emergency budget amendment” that would boost military spending this year, and for Mattis to revise the Pentagon’s tentative budget proposal for 2018 within 90 days.

Mattis also is charged with creating a new national security strategy by next January that explicitly builds up the military. Special emphasis would be placed on modernizing nuclear weapons, strengthening missile defense, addressing delays in the maintenance of existing equipment, and overcoming “shortfalls” in areas where more people are needed, such as cyber warfare, personnel recovery and expeditionary

naval forces, the order said.

The document offers no details on which programs could be cut.

Administration officials declined to discuss the draft order, which states that Trump will pursue “Peace Through Strength,” a campaign catchphrase. The order addresses a number of concerns that senior military officials have expressed for years about “military readiness,” the ability of a unit to carry out operations. The training and equipping of some units was significantly altered by the congressionally mandated budget cuts known as sequestration that went into effect in 2013, military officials have said.

### Many advocates

U.S. defense officials have advocated for a larger military since the election, with the Navy publishing a study that states it should add dozens of ships until its fleet reaches 355, senior Air Force and Army leaders calling for tens of thousands of additional personnel, and senior Marine officers saying that more personnel would be helpful, but should be devoted to filling specific needs against a near-peer enemy.

Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to comment on the new draft memo or whether Mattis was involved in its development. Mattis, who retired as a Marine general in 2013, said during his confirmation hearing that he does not think the U.S. military is strong enough to deter its enemies. He speaks regularly with Trump and has spent the first few days of his tenure as defense secretary mostly asking questions of senior commanders, Davis said.

“He is primarily interested in listening and learning,” Davis said. “I heard him say this

morning, ‘The good Lord gave me two ears and one mouth for a reason.’”

Trump’s proposals for the military during his presidential campaign were drawn heavily from the conservative Heritage Foundation, and could cost between \$55 billion and \$90 billion per year, according to outside experts.

The plan included adding tens of thousands of soldiers until the service reaches 540,000, expanding the Navy’s fleet to have at least 350 ships, adding about 100 Air Force fighter or attack jets until the service reaches 1,200, and increasing the number of Marine Corps infantry battalions from 24 to 36, which would include thousands of Marines.

The growth would have the most significant short-term effects on the Army, which shrank under former President Barack Obama from 540,000 soldiers in 2013 to 470,465 at the end of November — the smallest number since before World War II. Obama wanted to shrink the Army even more to 450,000 soldiers by fall 2018, but Congress stopped that with a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act that directed the Army to grow to 476,000 this year.

### ‘Shovel-ready’

Maj. Gen. John G. Ferrari, the Army’s director of program analysis and evaluation, said in an interview that his service is “shovel-ready” for growth in part because of the way it downsized. For instance, rather than completely ending the manufacturing of weapons like the M1 Abrams tank, the service continued to buy them in small quantities so the Army could keep open its plant in Lima, Ohio.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein called last month to grow the service from

317,000 airmen to 350,000 in the next seven years, citing in part the service’s heavy usage in the air war against the Islamic State group and a variety of new missions that have emerged. The additional airmen also are needed to meet new demands in jobs like space and cyberoperations, and to work on aircraft that the Pentagon once considered retiring, such as the A-10 attack jet and the U-2 spy plane, said Brig. Gen. Edward Thomas, a senior Air Force spokesman.

In the Marine Corps, Trump’s proposals have raised some concerns among senior leaders who believe the service has more pressing needs than adding more infantrymen. The service currently has about 183,000 Marines, down from a peak of more than 202,000 at the height of Obama’s surge of troops into Afghanistan.

Congress authorized the service to grow to 185,000 by next fall, but Gen. Robert B. Neller, the Marine Corps commandant, cautioned afterward that the circumstances have changed since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and it is now more important to add Marines who can perform skills like electronic and cyberspace warfare.

In the Navy, senior leaders have worked for years to build up the size of its fleet. There were 316 ships in 2001, but the number dropped to 278 under President George W. Bush, as the U.S. fought prolonged wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Pentagon began investing in more ships under Obama and former Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, and is expected to hit a goal of 308 by 2021. Last month, however, it announced an even more aggressive goal in a new “force structure assessment,” stating that the fleet should grow to 355 ships.

# All Marines to share sleeping quarters

Associated Press

Female infantry Marines will be sleeping in makeshift shelters next to their male counterparts when out in the field and no special accommodation will be offered to them, a Marine Corps official said Thursday.

Marines in the field stay in everything from large, single-room shelters filled with dozens of cots to sleeping under tarps or nothing at all, said Maj. Charles Anklam III, executive officer for 1st Battalion, 8th Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C. — the first gender-integrated Marine infantry battalion.

Female Marines have private rooms and bathrooms in their living quarters, and female bathrooms have been added to

buildings where Marines work. But female Marines will be expected to share any living spaces with male squad members in the field to keep unit cohesion and to replicate battlefield conditions, he said.

“We’re not changing our tactical posture or changing how we operate to accommodate the inclusion of female Marines,” Anklam said.

The battalion accepted its first three females in early January, marking the first time the Marine Corps has put three enlisted women in a ground combat unit once open only to men. They will serve as a rifleman, machine gunner and mortar Marine.

Anklam said female Marines deployed to conflict zones have shared tents with their

male counterparts at times. But this marks the first time female Marines will be doing so during their regular training with their combat unit.

Their entry into the unit was part of efforts to comply with the Pentagon’s directive in December 2015 to open all military jobs to women.

Opponents of the Obama administration’s policy change voiced concern about the two genders sharing tents.

“You’re going to have sex, you’re going to have love, you’re going to have relationships, and it’s going to overly complicate the command structure,” Marine veteran Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., told the Marine Corps Times.

## Air Force, airlines seek pilot shortage solution

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is working with commercial airlines to find ways to overcome a shortage in the number of pilots needed to fly commercial and military aircraft.

Gen. Carlton D. Everhart, Air Mobility Commander for the service, met this week with top officials from Delta, United and other airlines to discuss the shrinking pool of pilots and what to do about it.

This year, Air Mobility Command is already 315 pilots short of what it needs to meet existing operational demands, Everhart said. During the next four years, the command expects to lose another 1,600. Meanwhile, the airline industry expects to hire thousands of pilots each year to meet its needs.

This week’s meeting was a precursor to one planned for May to be led by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein and industry executives, Everhart said.

The issue is getting high-level attention and the May meeting is expected to generate quick actions to relieve some of the pressure on the military and commercial sector, he said.

“The reality is that we as a nation are not producing the amount of pilots we need to source the commercial requirement, the business requirement, the private requirement and the military requirement,” Goldfein said earlier this month in Washington at an American Enterprise Institute conference on the state of the Air Force.

One idea discussed was to bring more predictability to Air Force Reserve com-

mitments, so a pilot could have a successful reserve-and-commercial career. Other ideas included potential adjustments to required flight hours pilots need to join a commercial airline, debt forgiveness and other quality-of-life changes that would help both sectors, Everhart said.

“We are looking at all the possibilities, the ways we can increase the available pool [of pilots] that serves both the military and commercial industry, without going into direct competition,” he said.

For Everhart, the bottom line is the pace of operations on his command’s pilots — the people who fly the tankers, cargo, personnel airlifters and humanitarian aid missions that have dominated the past decade — has worn down the force.

His command has flown roughly 33,000 sorties in support of missions against the Islamic State group since late 2014. With each airstrike, there’s demand on the fleet. For example, last week, it took 15 tankers to support the two B-2 stealth bombers that conducted a large airstrike against two Islamic State group training camps in Libya.

The pace of operations for the Air Force has made it more attractive for military pilots to consider leaving the service, said Col. Chris Karns, spokesman for the Air Mobility Command. More so, commercial airlines are increasing pay to fill an anticipated 35,000 jobs through the year 2031, as private-sector pilots retire and airlines grow to meet increased demands for travel, he said.

Air Mobility Command’s expected loss of 1,600 pilots is from a pool of 7,940 pilots in active duty, the National Guard and the Reserves.

“Seventy percent of my tankers belong to the Guard and Reserves,” Everhart said. “So if you have those people leaving, where does that burden fall to? The 30 percent [from active duty,]” he said, which creates greater strain on the active-duty force and reduces the chance that those pilots will stay.

The Air Force has tried to counter the loss of pilots by offering bonuses to stay in the service, Karns said. But last year, only about 48 percent of the active-duty pilots eligible to leave the Air Mobility Command took the offer.

Some of the ideas being considered to ease the pilot shortage include an adjustment to the 1,500 flying hours needed by nonmilitary pilots before they can fly with commercial airlines. The requirement for military pilots is less. They can enter the commercial sector after flying 750 hours.

The higher requirement makes the military a popular supply line for commercial airlines because of the many hours that they accumulate flying missions, Goldfein said.

Another idea under consideration is altering reserve commitments so reserve pilots could have more stable, combined reserve-commercial careers.

“There are various periods of time where there is an uptick in air travel,” Karns said. “Are there ways to look at when duty is performed to achieve predictability?”

But Everhart said world events could affect any plan.

“You can never predict the next earthquake,” he said.

## Suit pending vs. Navy over carrier cleaning in Wash.

(Bremerton, Wash.) *Kitsap Sun*

BREMERTON, Wash. — The Suquamish Tribe and two environmental groups are suing the Navy over aircraft carrier cleaning practices that might be harming Sinclair Inlet in Kitsap County, Wash.

The tribe, the Washington Environmental Council and the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance on Wednesday issued a notice of intent to sue the Navy over alleged Clean Water Act violations.

The Navy began scraping the hull of the decommissioned USS Independence this month. The Navy is preparing to tow the 1,070-foot-long carrier from Bremerton to Texas, where it will be dismantled sometime this year.

The tribe and environmental groups joined state and federal pollution regulators in expressing concerns that the cleaning was releasing toxic levels of copper-based paint into the inlet.

“Copper is one of the most toxic heavy metals to fish — and particularly to salmon,” said Chris Wilke, Soundkeeper’s executive director. “It’s so se-

rious that our state has moved to phase out its use in all boat paint.”

The tribe has raised concerns over hull scraping several times.

“We do not believe they should be exempt from regulations that other vessel owners routinely follow,” Suquamish Chairman Leonard Forsman said.

Hull cleanings are typically conducted in a dry-dock facility with pollution prevention and waste disposal capabilities. The Navy began its cleaning without Clean Water Act permits and in violation of federal pollution discharge rules, the tribe and groups allege.

Navy officials say they can claim exemptions to many state and federal pollution rules.

The inlet is on the Clean Water Act’s list of impaired waters. Considered one of the state’s most polluted areas, the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton was designated a federal Superfund cleanup site in 1994. Marine sediment samples taken near the base contain elevated levels of copper, mercury and other heavy metals.

## Navy works on sensor to improve TBI data

*The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot*

Navy researchers are developing a wearable system that could help determine the severity of a brain injury suffered by a warfighter following an explosion.

Though invisible, traumatic brain injury, or TBI, has been called the signature wound to emerge from the military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Pentagon and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have spent millions of dollars researching and developing tools to detect TBI and to treat servicemembers.

More than 357,000 have been diagnosed since 2000, according to the Defense Department’s Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center. Of that total, 294,000 cases have been of the mild variety, better known as a concussion.

“A concussion causes the brain to be extremely vulnerable to any other type of stimulation,” said David A. Hovda, director of the University of California Los Angeles’ Brain

Injury Research Center.

The Blast Load Assessment Sense and Test — or BLAST — is a five-year, \$30 million program that will use sensors in helmets to take “real-time” measurements of overpressure, or the shock wave propelled by an explosion, as well as acceleration and deceleration of the body during the exposure, said Dr. Timothy Bentley, its program manager for the Office of Naval Research’s Warfighter Performance Department.

An algorithm being developed — the second component of the program — will convert that data to develop a threshold for injury that will be used to determine if the affected warfighter needs an additional exam.

If that’s the case, a tool that’s being developed to assess neurofunction — BLAST’s third component — would be used. The tool would fit into a medic’s hand and would check for TBI by assessing whether the injured warfighter responds to a pattern of vibrations emitted by the device.

## Proposed Trump order could alienate interpreters

*The Washington Post*

A proposed executive order that would reduce the number of immigrants and refugees from the Middle East and North Africa likely will affect thousands of Iraqi interpreters and soldiers who served alongside U.S. troops and have applied for visas to come to the U.S., according to two refugee and immigrant advocacy groups familiar with the draft document.

The order being considered by the Trump administration probably would affect Iraqi interpreters who apply for the Special Immigrant Visa, said Mac McEachin, a national security policy associate at the International Refugee Assistance Project. If authorized, the executive action would temporarily block visas from seven countries for 30 days and would suspend the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days.

“We’re trying to prepare for any eventu-

ality,” McEachin said.

Though a far cry from President Donald Trump’s call during the election campaign for a “complete shutdown” on Muslim immigration, the move is aimed at immigrants and refugees from countries whose citizens “would be detrimental to the interests of the United States,” according to the document. Besides Iraq, those countries outlined in the draft are Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia. The order also effectively would ban Syrian refugees from the U.S. for the foreseeable future. Though the listed countries are considered Muslim-majority countries, places such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Turkey are not listed.

If Trump’s final version of the order overlooks the program for interpreters and translators, the administration would be making a “tactical error” when it comes to future conflicts, McEachin said.

“We might need interpreters in the future, and the last thing you want to do is make people think we’ll use them when it’s politically expedient and then get rid of them as soon as the next administration comes in,” he said.

The Iraq and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa programs were started in 2008 and 2009, respectively, as a commitment to help “those who have helped us.” While the Afghan program is ongoing — with roughly 2,300 applicants currently going through the visa process — the final allotment of visas for Iraqis was in 2014. Current Iraqi translators who are serving alongside the 5,000 U.S. forces in Iraq fighting the Islamic State group still can apply for visas, as there are more than 1,000 still available. As of June 2016, more than 800 applicants and their families are awaiting Iraqi special immigrant visas, according to recent State Department data.

# Supporters thrilled by Trump wall actions

Associated Press

PHOENIX — President Donald Trump's announcement that he is taking steps toward building a U.S.-Mexico border wall was welcome news for voters who say they're glad he is following through on one of his biggest campaign promises.

Trump's renewed vow Wednesday to seize control of the border hit close to home for Peggy Davis, whose cattle ranch near Tombstone, Ariz., is about 25 miles north of the border.

She said stretches desperately need more barriers, but a wall, alone, won't stop illegal crossings or drug smuggling.

"We desperately need (Border

Patrol) agents closer to the border," Davis said.

Trump vowed to make Mexico pay for the wall along the 1,954-mile border, suggesting a tax on Mexican imports as a funding mechanism.

Mexico opposes the wall and repeatedly has said it won't pay.

Critics in the U.S. say the president lacks a viable financial plan for building the wall.

One-third of the border already has some form of barrier, ranging from tall, steel barricades to wire-mesh and livestock fencing.

Jerry Blackburn, 67, a retired county building official from rural Tazewell, Va., voted for Trump and supports his calls for

cracking down on sanctuary cities and refugees coming to the U.S. Blackburn, a Republican, said illegal immigration "has diluted our workforce and is a heavy burden to our people."

He said the multibillion-dollar price tag of the wall is "not a big number when you look at the whole scope of things," and he's not bothered that vast stretches of the border already have fencing.

"It's not like we're going to start from scratch," he said. "It's not like we're building from the Gulf to the ocean. We're just finishing something that's already been started."

Immigration has long been a unifying issue for conserva-

tives, especially in border states that bear the brunt of immigrant and drug smuggling. The issue has rallied people to vote Republican around the country over the years, including immigrants such as Mercedes B. Izquierdo of Miami.

The retired saleswoman left Cuba 50 years ago and strongly backs Trump's border efforts.

"I think that building a wall is an excellent, perfect idea. There's so much we have to do," she said. "There are so many people coming from South America that are coming to destroy our country. Terrorists and criminals are looking to harm us."

## Pence: Taxpayer-funded abortions coming to end

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence told a crowd gathered Friday in Washington for the annual March for Life rally that ending taxpayer-funded abortion and choosing a Supreme Court justice who will uphold "God-given" liberties are among top priorities of the Trump administration.

One of President Donald Trump's first official acts after taking office a week ago was to sign an executive order banning U.S. aid to foreign groups that provide abortions. Pence said more such action would continue. Trump will "work with the Congress to end taxpayer funding of abortion and abortion providers, and we will devote those resources to health care services for women across America," Pence said to the crowd gathered near the Washington Monument.

The vice president also accused the U.S. Supreme Court, in its landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion, of having "turned away from these timeless ideals."

Pence said Trump would be nominating a Supreme Court justice next week who "will up-

hold the God-given liberties enshrined in our Constitution."

The March for Life is usually held on the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision — Jan. 22 — but it was pushed back this year because of Trump's inauguration. Pence is the first sitting vice president to address the march. Kellyanne Conway, one of Trump's top advisers, also spoke.

In Congress, Republican majorities in both chambers are vowing to end federal funding for Planned Parenthood, which provided more than a third of the nation's abortions in 2014. They also hope to ban most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Trump has pledged to sign both measures if they reach his desk.

Less than a year ago, with Barack Obama's second term winding down, things were markedly different. The Supreme Court struck down Texas' strict regulations on abortion clinics as interfering with a woman's constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy. With polls at the time suggesting Hillary Clinton would likely defeat Trump, abortion opponents worried about an era of liberal majorities on the court.

## Beastly winter in American West hard on wild animals

Associated Press

Antelope injured while falling on ice. Horses stranded in snowy mountains. Cougars descending from their wilderness lairs to forage in a town.

It's been a beastly winter in the American West, not just for people but for animals too. One storm after another has buried much of the region in snow, and temperatures have often stayed below freezing, endangering a rich diversity of wild animals.

In southern Idaho, about 500 pronghorn antelope tried to cross the frozen Snake River earlier this month at Lake Walcott, but part of the herd spooked and ran onto a slick spot where they slipped and fell. Idaho Fish and Game workers rescued six of the stranded pronghorn, but 10 were killed by coyotes and 20 had to be euthanized because of injuries suffered when they fell down.

Another 50 pronghorn were found dead in the small western Idaho city of Payette after they nibbled on Japanese yew, a landscaping shrub that's toxic. Tough winter conditions have forced some wildlife to feed on the plant in urban areas.

Heavy snow has forced Idaho's fish and game department

to begin emergency feeding of big game animals in southern Idaho.

In eastern Oregon, state wildlife officials are feeding elk, but the weather makes accessing them difficult. When highways and the interstate are closed because of the snow, the workers still must get to the rural feeding stations where they feed the elk alfalfa hay.

"When you run feed programs, you can't take a day off because of bad weather. If you take a day off, the elk wander away," said Nick Myatt, district manager of La Grande office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Wandering elk tend to feed on haystacks that ranchers have left for their cattle, and congregate in low-elevation sites along Interstate 84 in northeastern Oregon, where cars have hit them in recent weeks, Myatt said.

In western Wyoming, supplemental feeding of elk wintering on the National Elk Refuge near Jackson started the first week of January, three weeks earlier than usual because heavier-than-normal snowfall buried the natural forage the thousands of elk graze on at the 24,700-acre refuge.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Search on for panda missing from zoo

**VA** NORFOLK — Officials at the Virginia Zoo are searching for a young red panda that has gone missing.

Zoo spokeswoman Ashley Grove Mars said Sunny, a 19-month-old red panda, was in her habitat Monday evening but could not be found Tuesday morning.

Officials hope Sunny is still at the zoo, but Mars said the animal may have wandered off.

The Norfolk police department has provided a geothermal camera to zoo staff to help locate Sunny.

Zoo staff urged anyone who spots Sunny to not try to touch, feed or capture the animal. Instead, people should call the Virginia Zoo hotline at 757-777-7899.

## Man chokes stranger thinking he's burglar

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — A Colorado Springs man is in critical condition after a former soldier put him in a chokehold because he thought the man was a burglar.

The Gazette reported that Scott Ryan Smith Jr., 25, was in critical condition two days after the incident with Craig Uehling, 30.

Uehling said that when he came home on Sunday, he saw a suspicious-looking man who he believed was a burglar in his driveway. Uehling, an Army veteran, said the man ignored him and walked into a neighbor's backyard. Uehling then followed the man, who, according to Uehling, punched Uehling, before the Army veteran pulled Smith to the ground in a chokehold.

Smith's heart stopped for more than 30 minutes.

## Man with 95 license suspensions arrested

**NY** COMMACK — Police on Long Island said they've arrested a man who has had his driver's license suspended nearly 100 times.

The Suffolk County Police Department said Jerry Tenzie, 47, was arrested Tuesday evening in Commack and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle, possession of marijuana and possession of a weapon.

Officers reportedly smelled marijuana coming from Tenzie's car. A search of the vehicle reportedly turned up an illegal rifle as well as marijuana.

Officials said the Copiague man has 95 suspensions on his license from nine different dates.

## Man not hurt trying to show off 'scuba bong'

**MA** BOSTON — A story shared on social media claiming a Boston man lost his testicles in an explosion while trying to fill a scuba tank with marijuana smoke is false.

The story shared by the Boston Leader website described an incident on Sept. 15 in which a 27-year-old man was demonstrating a "scuba bong" for his friends when it exploded.

Police spokeswoman Rachel McGuire said no such incidents were reported on that day.

An image of the supposed victim being taken into an ambulance is from a 2010 Boston Globe article about an unrelated incident.

The website IsThatLegit.com shared a story about the same incident taking place in Calgary, Alberta, last year. But Calgary police Constable Riley Babott tells The Associated Press they've had "no such complaints" made to them in

the last five years.

## Charges upheld in baby vegan diet case

**PA** UNIONTOWN — A Pennsylvania woman accused of malnourishing her baby while following a vegan diet has been ordered to stand trial on a child endangerment charge.

Authorities in Fayette County said in October that Elizabeth Hawk, 33, of Confluence, was feeding her 11-month-old a vegan diet of nuts and berries.

A Child and Youth Services worker testified Tuesday that the child had a severe untreated rash and couldn't move. Family members said the child couldn't crawl and hadn't developed teeth.

Defense attorney David Kaiser said, "Just because the baby has a rash ... it doesn't mean that Mom neglected the child."

## Woman injured when drone falls on head

**UT** LOGAN — Police said a woman was taken to a hospital after a drone crashed and fell on her head at a party.

The Herald Journal in Logan reported that someone was using the drone indoors to take pictures of the event at Castle Manor in Hyde Park on Saturday.

Police Chief Kim Hawkes said it appears the man lost control of the drone. It then crashed into a wall and fell on the woman.

Hawkes said the woman was taken to a hospital by ambulance, but he did not have information about her condition.

## Police: Woman threw tampon at officer

**FL** ST. PETERSBURG — A Florida woman has

been charged after, according to police, she hit an officer with a tampon.

Local news outlets reported that Tacora Fields, 28, was arrested and charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer.

A police report said Fields was involved in a fight when a St. Petersburg police officer responded.

Fields reportedly threatened to hit the officer with her tampon. She then removed the tampon and threw it at the officer, hitting him in the shoulder.

Police said Fields tried to flee the scene, but the officer used a stun gun on her, and she was taken into custody.

## Man pleads guilty to posing as officer

**NY** CHEEKTOWAGA — Authorities said a New York man has admitted to posing as a police officer during a traffic stop with a real cop.

The Erie County District Attorney's Office said Corey Shepard, 26, of Cheektowaga pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges that include criminal possession of a forged instrument, criminal impersonation and menacing.

Prosecutors said he called 911 in October to report an erratic driver and claimed he was an off-duty Buffalo officer. He was wearing a police uniform when he joined the Cheektowaga officer who pulled over the driver.

Police became suspicious and checked out Shepard's claim. They found out he worked for a local security systems company and had a stockpile of police-related equipment and fake badges at his Cheektowaga home.

From wire reports

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# Nadal win sets up classic final against rival Federer

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal took five sets and almost five hours to fend off “Baby Fed” and revive a classic Grand Slam final against the one-and-only Roger Federer.

Nadal’s 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-4 win over Grigor Dimitrov in a grueling, 4-hour, 56-minute semifinal match sets up a championship weekend at the Australian Open like no other, with every singles finalist in their 30s.

The all-Williams women’s final Saturday features the record-chasing Serena against Venus — the first decider between the sisters at a major since 2009. The Roger-Rafa final will be Sunday — their first meeting in an Australian Open title match since Nadal won in 2009.

The unexpected pairings already has generated hype that transcends the sport.

“I feel that this rivalry is talked about outside the tennis world, and that is good for our sport,” Nadal said of his ninth Grand Slam final against the 17-time major champion.

The 35-year-old Federer and the Williams sisters — Serena is 35, a year younger than Venus — had already clinched their finals spots on Thursday.

Nadal completed the 30-plus quartet in a match that started in local prime time Friday and finished at 12:45 a.m. Dimitrov, who had only beaten Nadal once in eight previous matches and was in a Grand Slam semifinal for only the second time, played the match of his life.

He had two break point chances in the eighth game of the fifth set, but Nadal’s experience of winning 14 major titles kicked in. He held, then converted his first break point of the set in the next game with a booming backhand winner down the line.

After clinching the win on

his third match point, the 30-year-old Nadal dropped to his knees, then onto his stomach and lay face down for several seconds before getting up and embracing Dimitrov at the net.

Nadal held up his arms triumphantly, then pointed toward the 25-year-old Bulgarian, gesturing to the cheering crowd just as a conductor would to acknowledge his orchestra.

“Grigor played great. I played great. So was a great quality of tennis,” Nadal said. “So just for me, is amazing to be through to a final of Grand Slam again here in Australia at the first of the year.”

Against Dimitrov, dubbed “Baby Fed” for the similarities he has with Federer’s style and his seemingly effortless one-handed backhand, Nadal showed signs of the brute strength and determination that carried him to the top of the rankings for 141 weeks in total from 2008 — after spending 160 consecutive weeks at No. 2 behind Federer.

Dimitrov, who won the Brisbane International title earlier in the month, hit 20 aces, moved with precision, broke Nadal’s serve four times, and pounded the Spaniard with 79 winners.

Even Nadal wasn’t entirely confident he could beat Dimitrov when he was deep into the deciding set.

“I say to myself, ‘I am giving my best, I am playing very well. If I lose, that’s it. Grigor deserves, too,’” he said. “I think both of us deserve to be in that final. Was a great fight. Finally was me. I feel lucky.”

With Federer and Nadal both returning from injuries, and neither having won a major since mid-2014, a ninth Grand Slam final between two of the most dominant men in the sport was considered an extreme long shot at Melbourne

Park.

Nadal, who had a couple of months off to rest his injured left wrist after an up-and-down 2016 that started with a shocking first-round exit in Australia, was ranked No. 9.

He reached a low point, he admitted, after having to withdraw from the French Open, where he has won nine of his 14 major titles.

“I remember myself crying on the car coming back to hotel,” Nadal said. “That was a tough moment.”

Federer, off for six months with an injured left knee, was ranked No. 17. He reached the semifinals in Australia and Wimbledon last year, but didn’t play the other majors.

He hasn’t won a Grand Slam title since Wimbledon in 2012, has an 11-23 record at tour-level against Nadal, and has only won two of the eight major finals he’s played against the left-handed Spaniard.

But Federer got the night off Friday while Nadal had to endure it, just as he did in the semifinals in 2009 when he edged Fernando Verdasco in a 5-hour, 14-minute thriller. He went on to beat Federer in the final that year — his only title so far in Australia.

After doing his best to stand in the way of the Roger-Rafa rematch, Dimitrov figured there was a benefit to losing.

“I just know that two of the greatest players of tennis are going to square off, and it’s going to be (an) amazing match,” the Bulgarian said.

And despite not being able to break up the weekend party reserved for players over 30 — it will be the first major in the Open era where all four singles finalists are 30 or older — Dimitrov plans to see some history being made.

“Of course, everyone is going to see that final now,” he said, “including me.”

## Vonn avoids serious injury in training crash

CORTINA D’AMPEZZO, Italy — Lindsey Vonn has avoided more serious injury after falling during World Cup downhill training.

The American, who returned this month from nearly a year out with knee and arm injuries, lost control on a tricky left turn on the upper portion of the Olympia delle Tofane course Friday and hit the safety netting.

After pausing to collect herself, Vonn skied down to the finish area.

“I just caught a lot of air off this jump between the turns and I landed and hit another bump and just went in the fences in a little bit,” she said. “But I’m fine.”

## Cubs agree to 1-year deal with Anderson

CHICAGO — The World Series champion Chicago Cubs added pitching depth, finalizing a \$3.5 million, one-year contract with left-hander Brett Anderson on Thursday.

Anderson, who can make an additional \$6.5 million in bonuses based on starts, figures to compete with Mike Montgomery for the fifth spot in the rotation behind Jon Lester, Kyle Hendricks, Jake Arrieta and John Lackey. Anderson has dealt with several injuries during eight big league seasons and was limited to three starts and one relief appearance with the Dodgers last year.

## Bragg suspended for team rules violation

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas forward Carlton Bragg has been suspended indefinitely for a violation of team rules.

Coach Bill Self said in announcing the suspension late Thursday that the violation isn’t connected to an investigation into an alleged rape at his team’s dorm in December. No charges have been filed, and police have not publicly identified any suspects. Self says the investigation has given him no reason yet to discipline any players.

The Associated Press

# Woods stumbles to 76 in Tour return

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The return of Tiger Woods felt more like a celebration Thursday at Torrey Pines.

Hundreds of fans lined up against the railing behind the 18th grandstand to watch Woods walk onto the first tee for his first PGA Tour event in 17 months. Thousands more stood behind every inch of rope from tee-to-green, and they were six-deep in spots around the green. As he made the turn, workers filled three balconies at the Scripps Clinic. No other player brings this much energy to a golf course.

Now he just has to bring his game.

Woods battled to save par, and then he fell apart during a six-hole stretch on the back

nine and stumbled to a 4-over 76 in the Farmers Insurance Open. It wasn't his worst score on the fabled South Course at Torrey Pines, though it was his highest score of his career in the first round of a new year.

"I let it slip away in the middle part of the back nine," Woods said. "And unfortunately, didn't hit very good shots."

Woods wound up 11 shots behind Justin Rose, who opened with a 65 on the shorter North Course with the new and smooth greens. Adam Hadwin of Canada, who shot 59 last week in the California desert, had the low score on the South at 66.

It was a rude welcome back to the PGA Tour, and to Torrey Pines, where Woods has won eight times as a pro.

He had not played on the PGA Tour since Aug. 23, 2015, when he tied for 10th in the Wyndham Championship. Two back surgeries followed, and Woods missed all of 2016 until returning at an unofficial event with an 18-man field and no cut in the Bahamas the first week in December.

This was different in so many ways.

Along with fighting his swing — he didn't hit a fairway after No. 7 — and coping with thick rough he had not seen since the 2015 PGA Championship, Woods said he had a hard time adjusting to the pace of play from being in threesomes.

His game was greater concern than having to wait.

This was a battle from the start, when his opening tee shot

went into the right rough and he hit a big cut closer to the gallery than the green. Woods did well to keep his score from getting out of hand early, with four tough par saves on the front nine to limit the damage.

He started the back nine with 10-foot birdie putts on the 10th and 11th holes, and with two par 5s ahead of him, starting to believe this could be a strong start.

"And it went the other way," Woods said. "I hit bad tee shots and made a bad three-putt and laid up from the rough into rough. I just kept compounding problems and mistakes out there."

Starting with No. 12, he played the next six holes in 6 over, with a double bogey on the 15th hole the biggest blow.

## Gonzaga stays unbeaten, sets sights on No. 1 ranking

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Gonzaga's Nigel Williams-Goss was held to four points in his previous game, and wanted to start strong against San Diego on Thursday night.

"I wanted to come out aggressive," Williams-Goss said, after scoring 13 points in the first 8 minutes and 25 overall as No. 3 Gonzaga routed San Diego 79-43, clearing one obstacle to a possible No. 1 ranking next week.

Johnathan Williams added 13 points and 12 rebounds for Gonzaga (21-0, 9-0 West Coast), which has the nation's longest winning streak at 21 games. The Zags are the nation's last remaining undefeated Division I team.

If Gonzaga can win at Pepperdine on Saturday, the Zags have a good chance of claiming the top spot in the next Top 25 as No. 1 Villanova and No. 2 Kansas lost this week.

Williams-Goss said the Zags were trying to tune out all the buzz about a No. 1 ranking, even as their fans broke into a chant of "Number one! Number one!" as the clock wound down.

"Our end goal is in March to play our best basketball," he said. "We have to get better each week."

They were plenty good against San Diego, holding the Toreros to 32 percent shooting and hounding them into 15 turnovers while committing only five.

**No. 7 Arizona 79, Washington St. 62:** Allonzo Trier scored 17 points in his first home game of the season and Lauri Markkanen had a double-double for the host Wildcats.

Trier scored 12 points against UCLA on Saturday in his first game back from a 19-game suspension for performance-enhancing drugs. He scored 11 points in the second half to help Arizona (19-2, 8-0 Pac-12) finally shake the pesky Cougars.

Markkanen finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds in Arizona's 13th straight win overall and 17th straight at home.

**No. 9 North Carolina 91, Virginia Tech 72:** Justin Jackson scored 26 points and the host Tar Heels hit a season-high 14 three-pointers.

Kennedy Meeks added 15 points and 14 rebounds for

North Carolina (19-3, 7-1), which has climbed into sole possession of first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference with seven straight wins.

UNC led 44-33 by halftime, then ran off 10 straight points midway through the second half to turn this one into a rout.

**No. 10 Oregon 73, Utah 67:** Dillon Brooks returned from missing a game with a foot injury to score 17 points for the visiting Ducks.

Oregon (19-2, 8-0 Pac-12) led by as many as 13 points in the second half, but Kyle Kuzma's three-pointer made it 70-66 with 1:40 to play.

But the Utes (14-6, 5-3) were denied multiple chances at the rim, including Chris Boucher's block of Kuzma's shot with 31 seconds left.

Jordan Bell had 15 points and Dylan Ennis added 13 for the Ducks, who extended the longest winning streak in Oregon history to 17 games.

**No. 19 Cincinnati 86, No. 24 Xavier 78:** Jacob Evans III scored 21 points and led the host Bearcats' second-half surge, ending the Musketeers' streak of three straight wins in

their annual crosstown rivalry game.

Cincinnati (18-2) got its 11th straight win by overcoming Trevon Bluiett's incredible shooting performance — 12-for-15, including 9-for-11 from three-point range, for a career-high 40 points.

Cincinnati dominated up front, outrebounding Xavier (14-6) 42-18 and scoring 30 second-chance points.

**No. 21 Saint Mary's 66, San Francisco 46:** Calvin Hermanson scored 18 points and sparked a 14-0 run in the second half that carried the host Gaels to their 12th win in 13 games.

Hermanson started the decisive stretch early in the second half by hitting a three-pointer and capped it with a layup as Saint Mary's (18-2, 8-1 West Coast Conference) won for the 23rd time in the past 24 meetings against the Dons (14-8, 4-5).

Emmett Naar scored 18 points and Jock Landale added 13 for Saint Mary's.

Charles Minlend scored 13 points for the Dons, who had won three straight games.

# Caps win again, head into break atop NHL

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Heading into the All-Star break, the Washington Capitals are in the same position they were at the end of the regular season last year — leading the pack in the NHL.

Evgeny Kuznetsov scored twice, Alex Ovechkin had a goal and an assist and the Capitals beat the New Jersey Devils 5-2 on Thursday night to go into the break with a good shot at a second straight President's Trophy.

The Capitals are on a roll heading into the break. They went 13-1-2 in their last 16 and they have 72 points in 49 games.

"A month ago, we probably wouldn't have thought we'd be where we are," said goaltender Braden Holtby, who made 27 saves. "Our game's come together. We had some fortune in some games and played really well in others. We're going strong but we know we can't get complacent now. We'll take the All-Star break to rest some guys and come back stronger."

Andre Burakovsky and Lars Eller also scored for the Capitals, and defenseman Dmitry Orlov added two assists. Stefan Niesen and Adam Henrique scored for New Jersey, which has lost six straight at home. The Devils are tied with Detroit for the fewest points in the Eastern Conference.

**Predators 4, Blue Jackets 3:** Craig Smith scored two goals in the third period and host Nashville held off Columbus in the final game for both teams before the All-Star break.

Columbus coach John Tortorella left the team before the game, returning home for a personal matter that will cause him to miss All-Star weekend. His assistants filled in for him, but the Blue Jackets dropped to 5-7-0 since their 16-game winning streak.

**Oilers 4, Sharks 1:** Andrej Sekera scored two goals and surging Edmonton extended its point streak to eight games by beating host San Jose.

Edmonton ended San Jose's six-game winning streak and tied the Sharks for the Pacific Division lead heading into the All-Star break. Both teams have 64 points, one more than Anaheim.

**Kings 3, Hurricanes 0:** Marian Gaborik and Trevor Lewis scored 38 seconds apart late in the third period, leading visiting Los Angeles past skidding Carolina.

**Panthers 2, Lightning 1:** Jonathan Marchessault scored a power-play goal in overtime and host Florida beat Tampa Bay to snap a four-game losing streak.

**Flames 3, Senators 2:** Johnny Gaudreau scored with 31 seconds on the clock in overtime and visiting Calgary edged

Ottawa, responding two days after coach Glen Gulutzan called his struggling team "pathetic."

**Stars 4, Sabres 3:** Patrick Sharp scored twice for the second time in five games and host Dallas rallied from an early two-goal deficit to beat Buffalo.

**Islanders 3, Canadiens 1:** Andrew Ladd scored twice to lead host New York, snapping a seven-game losing streak to Montreal.

**Bruins 4, Penguins 3:** Brad Marchand scored two second-period goals, lifting host Boston past Pittsburgh.

**Flyers 2, Maple Leafs 1:** Roman Lyubimov scored late in the third period to lift host Philadelphia to its third straight win.

**Jets 5, Blackhawks 3:** Andrew Copp and Bryan Little scored in a 32-second span in the third period, and visiting Winnipeg won its fourth straight victory against Chicago this season.

**Wild 5, Blues 1:** Nino Niederreiter had a goal and two assists, Devan Dubnyk made 25 saves and host Minnesota beat St. Louis.

**Coyotes 3, Canucks 0:** Alexander Burmistrov scored his first goal with Arizona and Mike Smith earned his 31st career shutout — first this season — in a victory over visiting Vancouver.

## Westbrook leads Thunder to third straight win

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Just when it looked as if the Oklahoma City Thunder might squander a big lead, Russell Westbrook unleashed his full fury on the Dallas Mavericks.

Westbrook scored 17 of his 45 points in the final 8:23 to help the Thunder beat the short-handed Mavericks 109-98 on Thursday night.

Oklahoma City led by 16 late in the third quarter, but the advantage was down to six when Westbrook checked in after a Dallas timeout. The NBA scoring leader made 7 of 10 shots in the fourth quarter, including 3 of 4 three-pointers.

"I could tell in the timeout that he felt like he was getting ready to kind of explode, to be honest with you," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said.

Westbrook was 16-for-29 overall from the field after

being named an All-Star reserve earlier in the night. He had eight rebounds and three assists, ending his triple-doubles streak at three games.

Victor Oladipo added 17 points, and Steven Adams had 15 in Oklahoma City's third straight win.

The Thunder's excitement was dimmed when they learned that forward Enes Kanter fractured his right forearm punching a chair in the second quarter. Kanter is the team's No. 3 scorer and one of the league's top reserves.

"It was tough, man," Westbrook said. "To do it the way he did it is very unfortunate. He's a strong man, and he'll be back better."

**Pacers 109, Timberwolves 103:** Paul George scored 32 points after being picked for his fourth All-Star game to lead Indiana past host Minnesota.

Myles Turner added 23

points, and Jeff Teague had 20 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds to help the Pacers snap a three-game losing streak. Indiana outrebounded Minnesota 44-34 and shot 52 percent.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 33 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves after getting passed over for the Western Conference reserves. Minnesota missed a chance for its first four-game winning streak since 2012.

**Nuggets 127, Suns 120:** Nikola Jokic had 27 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists before leaving with an injury late in the game and Denver beat visiting Phoenix.

Jokic went down hard under the Suns' basket with 1:47 left. He was on the floor for a while with the entire Nuggets team surrounding him. He finally stood and limped to the locker room as the Nuggets closed out their fifth straight home

victory.

Danilo Gallinari added 23 points for Denver. The Nuggets have won six of eight. Eric Bledsoe led Phoenix with 28 points, and Devin Booker had 24.

**Jazz 96, Lakers 88:** Gordon Hayward scored 24 points to help host Utah beat struggling Los Angeles.

The Jazz ended a two-game losing streak and the Lakers have now dropped eight of their last nine. Utah used a 16-0 run in the third quarter, punctuated by a Joe Ingles-to-Hayward alley-oop to give the Jazz a 68-56 lead that they never relinquished. The stretch was jump-started by Rudy Gobert's rim protection on the defensive end as the Lakers went more than six minutes without scoring. He finished with six blocks, matching his season-high.

The Lakers answered with a 14-4 fourth-quarter run, but never got closer than 80-76.